



COMMUTER LINES

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LA 1 Recognized by FHWA

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently recognized LA 1 in its monthly newsletter, "Successes in Streamlining," which highlights current environmental streamlining practices across the country.

LA 1 is the only land route for the communities of Port Fourchon and Grand Isle and acts as both an emergency evacuation route and a transportation route for natural resources such as oil and natural gas. Congress has recognized the importance of this corridor and designated LA 1 a "high priority corridor."

DOTD and the FHWA were faced with the challenge of improving this route to minimize severe flooding risks, while protecting ecologically unique and sensitive wetlands. The final design calls for a four-lane, 17-mile, elevated highway, which will improve safety and mobility to the region. Innovative technologies, operating procedures and collaborative decision-making strategies were employed to ensure ecological preservation while upgrading access.

As the FHWA's newsletter observed, "Collaborative decision-making helped to ensure active and full participation among agencies and constituents, and enabled the team to meet transportation needs while avoiding detrimental environmental impacts." The use of new technologies and operating procedures allowed this collaborative effort to minimize both project development time and environmental risks, mitigating costs through long-term savings.

"Although LA 1's location-specific issues are not the norm, transportation professionals can gain valuable insight from the project's holistic approach," the FHWA noted in its newsletter. Open communication and project-specific strategies and techniques made this collaboration successful on multiple levels.

Another article on LA 1 appeared in the January/February 2004 edition of *Public Roads*. The article may be viewed by visiting the Public Roads Web site at www.tfhrc.gov/pubrds/pubrds.htm.



DOTD and the FHWA employed new technologies and procedures to ensure that LA 1 was both an environmental and transportation success.

KAM'S KORNER

As many of you may recall, DOTD was harshly criticized during the recent gubernatorial election for its "administrative costs." Pointing to a report that showed our administrative costs as the highest in the nation and twice as high as the national average, candidates indicated that if elected they would fix the roads in Louisiana by "cutting the fat" at DOTD. Although we provided the candidates with accurate information on our true administrative costs, it was, for the most part, disregarded in favor of the more popular, "scrub the budget" campaign rhetoric.



The background on how this became an issue is interesting. Each year, State DOTs complete and submit to the Federal Highway Administration numerous reports on various aspects of their operations—miles of road maintained, deficient bridges, etc. Professor David Hartgen, UNC at Charlotte, subsequently analyzes the data and issues a report comparing the states. One of the reports compares the states' administrative costs of doing business. Since states use different accounting systems, handle different functions/programs and may have central agencies that pay for employee benefits, both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), have strongly warned against using the report to compare states. For example, we handle public works and flood control programs, operates ferries and numerous moveable bridges, etc. -activities not commonly found in other states. We also administer the truck permits program and pay the State's share of our employee and retiree benefits. Other states may operate drivers' license bureaus and state police agencies but are not responsible for employee benefits. The report, then, compares "apples to oranges," but Hartgen's rankings are good fodder for news stories, so the comparisons continue.

While we still contend the report lacks credibility, we recognized that it was being used against us and made a concerted effort to review the data being compiled. We obtained clarifications of definitions, reviewed our calculations and procedures and ensured that true project costs such as project planning and engineering were no longer charged to an administrative work function.

I'm happy to report that for Fiscal Year 2002-2003, DOTD's administrative costs were only 2.9% of its total disbursements, the 4th lowest in the country. Although we haven't changed how we operate or reduced costs, we are now at the top of the national rankings. Let's see how much positive attention that generates.



SECRETARY

Kam K. Movassaghi, Ph.D, P.E.

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Blaise Carriere, P.E.

COMMUTER LINES STAFF

Deidre Adams

Mike Bourgeois

Lauren Lee

Lacey Holliday

Angela Funke

Tracy Horne

ON THE ROAD WITH DR. KAM

(ABBREVIATED CALENDAR)

DECEMBER

- 1-3 "2010 & Beyond" Advisory Panel; Washington, D.C.
- 4 Assoc. of Levee Boards annual meeting, New Orleans
- 5 TIMED Executive Committee meeting, Baton Rouge
- 10 3rd floor Christmas luncheon, BR
- 11 State Capitol; LIIEEP Commission meeting and Louisiana Transportation Authority meeting; Christmas dinner with District Administrators, Baton Rouge
- 12 Council for a Better Louisiana annual meeting, Baton Rouge
- 15-16 US DOT-TIFIA presentation; Washington, D.C.
- 17 New legislators' briefing on DOTD, Baton Rouge
- 18 Meetings with Senators Michot, Theunissen, Senator-elect Gautreau, Baton Rouge
- 19 Atchafalaya Basin Welcome Center preview, Boutte

JANUARY

- 6 Wildflower Seed Bank press event; Lafayette, ULL

STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS/FY 04-05 PRIORITIES

- 1/27 Monroe and Winnsboro
- 1/28 Bossier City and Pineville
- 2/3 Lafayette and Lake Charles
- 2/11 Jefferson and Hammond
- 2/12 Baton Rouge

College Drive Reconstruction Project Completed

Work to alleviate traffic congestion at College Drive and I-10 in Baton Rouge was completed in late November, approximately three weeks ahead of schedule. The project involved adding a right turn lane on College Drive from I-10 westbound to Corporate Boulevard and reconstructing the eastbound College Drive off-ramp. Additionally, two new lanes were constructed: a left turn lane from southbound College Drive onto I-10 eastbound and a lane to the eastbound on-ramp to I-10.

In an effort to minimize inconvenience to motorists, the contractor, Hard Rock Construction, Inc., Metairie, worked out a compressed schedule to complete the project in 90 calendar days.

According to DOTD project engineer, Mike Vosburg, "Hard Rock's personnel produced a high quality product without hindering traffic in any way. They were courteous to the motoring public and a pleasure to work with."

All work on and adjacent to College Drive was done at night, no work was done on weekend nights, and there were no lane closures during daylight hours. The project started on September 14 and was completed November 24, 16 days earlier than anticipated, and more importantly, before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. 🏠



Traffic moves smoothly from the reconstructed off-ramp to the new Corporate Boulevard turn lane along College Drive.

New Lighting System Installed on Mississippi River Bridge



As seen at night, the new bridge lights brighten the Mississippi River and offer a welcoming glow to visitors.

On Saturday, December 13, DOTD activated a new decorative lighting system on the I-10 Mississippi River Bridge. DOTD scheduled the lighting of the bridge to coincide with weekend Christmas festivities in downtown Baton Rouge.

The original decorative lights, first lit on July 4, 1996, were non-operational for several years due to lightning damage and the high cost of repairs and utilities.

According to Dr. Kam, "The new system is a sturdier version of the initial system, is less susceptible to damage, and is less expensive to maintain and operate." The estimated utility cost is \$3,000 per year as opposed to \$10,000 per year for the old system.

Work required the removal of the older system and replacement of electrical wiring and light fixtures. To accommodate weekday commuters and avoid delays during peak traffic times, work on the project was only performed on weekends and no work was scheduled over the Labor Day holiday or on weekends when LSU and Southern football home games were scheduled. The project took six weekends to complete.

The project was completed by Jack B. Harper Contractor, Inc., at an estimated cost of \$354,500. DOTD's Project Engineer was Phil Graves. With the support of Mark Drennan, Commissioner of Administration, State general funds were appropriated for this project by the legislature last year. 🏠

DOTD, LTRC Host Transportation Engineering Conference

At the time this issue of *Commuter Lines* went to print, the 2004 Louisiana Transportation Engineering Conference was scheduled for February 15-18 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Baton Rouge. Over 1,400 individuals were registered for the conference, and Governor Kathleen Blanco was scheduled to welcome the registrants at the opening session.

The event is held on a biennial basis to foster a better relationship and understanding among DOTD, the FHWA, and the transportation industry (contractors, consultants, universities, suppliers, parish/local agencies, etc.) by providing a forum for interchange between the public and private sectors relative to transportation policy, practice, and problems.

The conference also provides continuing education for the transportation engineering community by relating the engineering activities, progress, and special projects of the department, as well as presenting information on innovative technologies, and offering professional development opportunities.

Two of the featured speakers scheduled for the conference are M. Dale Henry, Ph. D, and Mike Tidwell, author of the book, *Bayou Farewell*. Henry will give several presentations, including "Ethics and the Transportation Professional." Tidwell, whose book was selected by *The Advocate* as the best nonfiction book of the year, will speak on the diminishing wetlands of Louisiana.

Conference highlights and photos will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.



First Place Win Puts DOTD on the Map

In the 2003 International Battle of the Maps competition, DOTD's 2004 Official Highway Map of Louisiana garnered first place honors. The map, which will be available to the public in March, was named the winner for its extensive application of CADscript and for its cartographic excellence and aesthetic appeal, according to Steve Sims, Sales Manager for Corporate Montage, sponsor of the competition. The DOTD map took first place in its category – Transport Maps – in addition to being declared the overall champion.

Sims presented the award to DOTD in Baton Rouge on November 19. During the ceremony, Dr. Kam praised the DOTD team that produced the winning effort, especially team leader Mary Kay Henderson, DOTD Information Technology Geographic Information System (IT GIS) Supervisor.

"This is an honor not only for our GIS Office, but it also reflects on the hard work and excellence of the Louisiana state employees at DOTD," Henderson said. "In fact, this map, which is distributed free to the public, is produced solely by DOTD employees."

In addition to Henderson, the other members of her team are Dora Michelli, Susan Firth, David Felder, Robert Anderson, Michael David, Stanley Kennedy and Jimmy Wilson.

The winning entries can be viewed on the Corporate Montage Web site, www.corporatemontage.com.



Pictured left to right are Dr. Kam; Harry "Jimmy" Wilson, IT GIS team member; Barbara Roy, Assistant Secretary for Tourism, CRT; Mary Kay Henderson, IT GIS Supervisor; team members David Felder, Susan Firth and Stanley Kennedy; Steve Simms, Corporate Montage; Eric Kalivoda, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Planning and Programming; and team member, Dora Michelli.

DOTD Completes Ascension Highway Improvements

On October 30, a special orange ribbon, in a tribute to Halloween, was cut to officially commemorate the successful completion of improvements to LA 42, LA 73 and Airline Highway in Ascension Parish. Former State Representative John C. "Juba" Diez (Dist. 59) served as Master of Ceremonies, and Blaise Carriere, DOTD Deputy Secretary, represented DOTD.

The festivities commemorated the completion of the \$1.17 million improvements which involved the addition of a left turn lane on LA 73 on both approaches to LA 42 and the addition of double turn lanes from Airline Highway onto LA 42 eastbound. Another additional lane was added on LA 42 westbound connecting to Airline Highway, subsurface drainage was added on LA 42 westbound, and the intersection of LA 42 and LA 73 was overlaid.

Coastal Bridge Co. was the contractor on the project, and the DOTD Project Engineer was Joey Tureau.



State and local officials, including former State Representative "Juba" Diez, third from left, and DOTD Deputy Secretary Blaise Carriere, fifth from left, attended the ribbon cutting event, which coincided with Halloween.

70 Mph Speed Limit on I-55 Restored

On Monday, December 22, the speed limit on the elevated section of I-55 between Ponchatoula and the I-10/I-55 junction near LaPlace was restored to 70 mph. The restoration of the 70 mph speed limit was based on recommendations submitted to Dr. Kam and former governor, Mike Foster, by an interagency task force formed in 1998, following a series of crashes on I-10 over the Atchafalaya Basin.


The task force's first report in 1999 resulted in lowering the speed limit to 60 mph on five elevated interstate segments in south Louisiana: I-10 over the Atchafalaya Basin, I-10 over the Bonnet Carre Spillway, the I-10 New Orleans East Twin Spans, I-55 over the Manchac Swamp and I-310 over the Labranche Wetlands. The task force reconvened in June 2003 to review the status of initial recommendations and accident statistics.

According to the group's second report, the speed limit restoration on the I-55 segment is based on the lower volume of passenger vehicles and trucks and the installation of several safety enhancements. These enhancements included raised reflective striping, mile markers every tenth of a mile, and a weather-based advisory speed system that includes fog warning devices and variable message boards. DOTD, in conjunction with State Police, will have the ability to advise the motoring public of the maximum safe speed for any given condition.

State Rep. Henry "Tank" Powell (R-Ponchatoula), a long time advocate of restoring the 70 mph speed limits to the I-55 elevated segments, stated that he was pleased with the action, "With these safety enhancements in place, I am confident that the 70 mph speed limit is justified and in the best interest of the public."

According to Dr. Kam, "DOTD has implemented the safety measures recommended in this study and will continue to monitor the situation, but nothing we do will have as great an effect on highway safety as motorists driving in a reasonable and prudent manner."

NEWS BRIEFS

- Copies of DOTD's 2002-2003 Annual Report have been distributed to local and state elected officials, metropolitan planning organizations, chambers of commerce, other State DOTs, and various national and state transportation organizations. The report may also be viewed from DOTD's home page, www.dotd.louisiana.gov, and a limited number of copies are available from the Public Affairs Office for DOTD officials to use when making public presentations.
- In order to enhance communications with hearing-impaired employees, DOTD headquarter employees recently completed a sign language class, American Sign Language I. The class was held in ten sessions, twice a week for 1.5 hours each. The instructor was Daniel Burch of Sign Language Services International, Inc.
- A \$1.7 million wildflower seed bank project, a collaborative project between the University of Louisiana (UL) Lafayette, UL Monroe, SLU and DOTD, was recently announced at a press conference at UL Lafayette. The project, which calls for the collection and propagation of wildflower seeds, and ultimately the enhancement of Louisiana's welcome centers, highways, and scenic byways, was funded by DOTD's Transportation Enhancement Program.
- On November 4, United Blood Services of Louisiana recognized Joe Drago, DOTD Telecommunications Manager, as a Life Giver in its Voluntary Community Blood Donor Program. Drago, a blood donor since 1953, was honored with the recognition for having given a cumulative total of four gallons of blood. 
- DOTD held an unveiling ceremony on November 21 to officially rename LA 48 (Third Street) in Kenner, from Filmore Street to Pollock Place, Rev. Richard Wilson Drive, in honor of the former community leader. Rep. Glenn Ansardi (Dist. 92), who sponsored legislation (Act 16) for the renaming during the 2003 regular season of the Legislature, served as Master of Ceremonies.
- Dr. Kam and other state officials participated in a pre-opening review of the new Atchafalaya Welcome Center in Butte LaRose on December 19. The pre-opening visit allowed the officials to walk through the construction area and discuss the status of the project.
- DOTD recently changed its email and Internet addresses in order to comply with new statewide standards. Effective December 31, 2003, the email address changed from name@dotd.state.la.us to name@dotd.louisiana.gov; and the Internet address changed from www.dotd.state.la.us to www.dotd.louisiana.gov.
- Dr. Kam, in conjunction with Governor Kathleen Blanco, recently announced two new DOTD appointments. Former State Representative John C. "Juba" Diez has been appointed as DOTD's new Legislative Liaison. Diez replaces Tommy Martinez, who has been reassigned to the position of Executive Director, Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority (LOTA).

New Florida Parishes Signs Unveiled



The new signs designate I-12 the "West Florida Republic Parkway."

On November 18, DOTD installed four new highway signs along I-12 through Louisiana's Florida Parishes: Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Livingston and East Baton Rouge. The signs designate this portion of I-12 the "West Florida Republic Parkway."

Unveiled at a reception hosted by Southeastern Louisiana University, the designation and the signs are expected to boost tourism for the area and inform the public about the unique history of the area.

The Florida Parishes, known as the original Lone Star Republic, were not part of the Louisiana Purchase. The region was under

Spanish control until a bloody revolt in September of 1810, after which it was forcibly annexed by the United States.

The new highway signs bear an image of the original Lone Star Republic's flag and include a single white star on a field of blue.



Employees in the Military

DOTD would like to recognize its employees who are members of Military Reserve units.

Latasha Fly *
Kevin Johnson *
James Courtney
Christopher Chavez
Wade Duplechin
Leo Franklin
Karron Loftin
Darlene Stone
Dustin Hickman *
Michael Murphy *
Edward Barnhill *
Roy Nugent
Stephen Harris
Diane Smith *
Frank Jones

Lemoyne Brister, Jr. *
Jeffrey S. Ernst
Jimmie Basco
Jessie Phillips *
Edwin Rushing
Gerald Jones
Glen Ray Smith *
Purvis Lighten
Eric Palmer
Cotina Jennings *
Frank Ciolino
Carl Williams
Leon Lovette
John Piggott
Derrick Duvic *

Royal Freeman *
Donald Johnson
John Basilica, Jr.
Roxanne Price *
Harold "Skip" Paul
Carl E. Courville
Marcus Smith *
Raymond Nash
David Feemster *
Brierre Thomas
Michael Leblanc
James Broadwater
Reno Johnson

* Denotes employees currently on active duty.

Technology Transfer

The following became certified inspectors between September 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003:

Asphaltic Concrete Plant Inspection

Traci Maurin Ridgedel	District 02
Jonas S. Hatfield	District 07
Larry Clyde Tucker	District 58

Portland Cement Concrete Paving Inspection

James Brown	District 02
Edmond J. Gipson, Jr.	District 02
Deborah L. Rogers	District 02
Dwayne A. Melancon	District 03
Mona Kaye Smith	District 04
Jaime G. Glass	District 07
Joseph Bryan Roberts	District 08
John H. Simmons, III	District 62

Structural Concrete Inspection

James Brown	District 02
Christopher P. Mason	District 04
Virginia Ann Mitcham	District 08

Asphaltic Concrete Paving Inspection

James Brown	District 02
Deborah L. Rogers	District 02
Jonathon Ray Lacombe	District 08
Raymond T. Stump	District 58
Michael S. Mansur	District 61

CORRECTION:

In the Legislative Recap story in the Fall 2003 issue of Commuter Lines, Act 257 and Act 1154 were both listed as having been signed into law. However, Act 1154 actually repealed Act 257. The staff of Commuter Lines regrets the error.

PERSONNEL UPDATES (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2003)

NEW HIRES

DISTRICT 02—NEW ORLEANS

Kristopher T. Campbell; Jason M. Fauchaux; Nicole L. Guillory; Edward A. Murray; Travis L. Neville; Robert E. Sims Jr., Ronald D. Till; and William A. Welsh.

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Rickey P. Alleman; Damien P. Doucet; Ricky J. Frederick; Joshua K. Hebert; David E. Laughlin; Jeffrey M. Pearson; Lance P. Pitre; Brandon J. Poirier; and Jude R. Vincent.

DISTRICT 04 – SHREVEPORT

John R. Allen; Jason A. Barefield; Sammy C. Douse; Connie L. Ford Jr.; Ruth N. Franklin; Richard A. Mathews; Thomas D. Myers; Patricia Patterson; Kenneth D. Tubbs; Michael C. Vise; and Jason W. Winget.

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

John S. Bearden; Charles W. Copeland; Melissa A. French; James C. Gentry; Christopher R. Ivy; Jonathan D. McMillan; Stephanie A. Miller; Jennifer B. Todd; and Terry L. Webb.

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Allison N. Bailey; Leslie L. Byler; Wesley J. Crader; Cornelius Davis; Benjamin J. Desjardine; Richard D. Dodd Jr.; Clint A. Dyke; Daniel A. Jacobsen; Paris L. Judge; Darrell R. Semien; Angela A. Simon; and Darren Thomas.

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

David W. Antee Jr.; Billy Joe Davis; John M. Elias; Johnny L. Erwin; Patrick K. Fontenot; Sandy D. Goleman; Laura E. King; Tommy Hernandez; Seth R. Howell; Willie M. Johnson; James K. Manuel; Dale J. Scallan; Randal B. Shipp; Jerry R. Singletary; Jeffrey J. Smith; and Roy D. Vallery.

DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

C. R. Caldwell and Carol Lynette White.

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Dallas E. Ballmer; Elizabeth C. Bogan; Ronald B. Brady; Kelby L. Henderson; Joseph A. Jarreau; Michael W. Jones; Neil M. McJunkins; Kerry J. Miletello;

Sidney Persilver; Rex A. Vosburg; Nathan D. Wascom; Samuel R. Weaver Jr.; and Laborn Wells III.

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Farrel J. Aucoin; Michael O. Lee; Scott M. Lobell; Charles D. Smith Jr.; and C. L. Smith Jr.

CCCD

Kuiana M. Addison; Thaddeus Bell; Valerie J. Broadnax; Keisha M. Clark; Tammy C. Davis; Douglas E. Faust; Corey Lee Gifford; Byron J. Hadley Jr.; Dannisha Hamilton; Michelle C. Harris; Sian M. Lee; Jerome A. Ramie; Donna L. Sanders; Glenda N. Vasquez; Lois B. Walker; Deanna R. Williams; Ron A. Williams.

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Mazen M. Abdulrazzak; Amanda M. Ahlstedt; Jason C. Ballard; John P. Blake; Leo A. Boles Jr.; Danna R. Bueche; Paul C. Catledge; Patsy A. Chaney; Chad M. Chauvin; Samuel L. Culotta; Kristie C. David; Stephen F. Davis; Cheryl D. Ebarb; Haley M. Forsyth; Zheng Zheng Fu; Angela C. Funke; Joseph D. Goodell; Edward J. Goodwin IV; Darryl W. Harrell; David J. Harris; Ryan D. Harris; Steven J. Howze; Robbie A. Hutchinson; Angelle D. Jackson; Jennifer J. Keith; Saul E. Labbe; George K. Lawson; Sherri H. Lebas; Brandilyn N. Leblanc; Bridget W. Leblanc; John N. Lyon; James M. McNamara; Randall G. Nettles; Phillip R. Rankin; Douglas R. Riggs; Heather M. Robeau; Tracey L. Robichaux; Jacob J. Rolley; Grady B. Sevario; Craig W. Shaffett; David G. Slayter; Louis E. Sylvester III; Jacqueline E. Thomas; Willie J. Turner; Lesleigh V. Waguespack; John R. Wallace IV; Wendell R. Weeks; Daria M. West; Daniel E. Wilkinson; and Nicholas L. Wilkinson.

PROMOTIONS

DISTRICT 02—NEW ORLEANS

Lynette H. Breaux; Susan N. Davis; Jacquell D. Flagg; Herman Guillory; Joseph L. Narcisse; Sandra B. Romero; and Alan S. Weber.

DISTRICT 03—LAFAYETTE

Hiro Alexandrian; Joseph C. Benoit; James R. Dugas; and Edward J. Landry.

DISTRICT 04—SHREVEPORT

James W. Clarkston Jr.; Kevin B. Eastridge; Leslie A. Heminger; James S. Laird; Carla M. Roberts; and Danny Ware.

DISTRICT 05—MONROE

Kenneth D. Rogers.

DISTRICT 07—LAKE CHARLES

Jacqueline M. Artis; Raymond A. May; Tammie L. Mouton; and Steve O. Racca.

DISTRICT 08—ALEXANDRIA

John G. Carpenter; Bradley E. Dill; Billy J. Robertson; Robert J. Smith; and Kenneth S. Snider.

DISTRICT 61—BATON ROUGE

Wynette K. Crawford; Thomas R. Newsom; Leroy Toney; and Michael J. Westerfield.

DISTRICT 62—HAMMOND

Ricky R. Brumfield and Wendell D. Smith.

CCCD

Stacie N. Blackmon; Shannon K. Boudoin; Peggy B. Bourgeois; Tamicia L. Lafrance; Debbie L. Stoufflet; and Gerard C. Tarantino.

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Connie H. Spann; Clydia R. Dearmond; Aaron J. Reid; Joseph H. Blanchard III; Michael K. Del Rio; Jack D. Shaffer; Alan W. Rusch; Edward J. Butler Jr.; James R. Carpenter; Chad A. Digirolamo; Peter T. Verret; John R. Williams; Kevin F. Jolin; Peter A. Allain; Kenneth A. Mason; Caryn D. Stanley; Phyllis G. George; Sharon J. Balfour; Malka M. Feast.

RETIREMENTS

DISTRICT 02 - NEW ORLEANS

Dale P. Arceneaux; Rosemary A. Fonseca; Kenneth Mason; Alfred Polite; Jimmie M. Reamey; and Carlos Vicari.

(Personnel Updates, cont'd. on page 9)

QUARTERLY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS (QUARTER ENDING 12/31/03)

HEADQUARTERS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Phillip Gelpi

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Fred A. Rasmussen

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Lieutenant John C. Kay; Officer Shawn Barnes; Officer Rachal Brannon; and Officer Brierre Thomas.

SECRETARY'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Michele Deshotels and Loring Mathews

DISTRICT 02

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Renee Caillouet

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Clyde Davis

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Diane Brown; Charlie Clerk; Jason Fauchaux; Irvin Gaubert; Sammy Paternostro; and Gary Pizzeck.

DISTRICT 03

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Patricia Klein

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Wayne Daigle; Paul Featherston; Raymond Ina; Joey Legnon; Edward Naquin; Rivers Picard; Walter Prescott; Carolyn Roberson; and Raeford Smith.

DISTRICT 04

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Jo Ann Mondello

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Vince Fields

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Sherrie Dixon; David Guthrie; Dewey Moseley; Joel Stevens; John Tuggle; and Michael Tuggle.

DISTRICT 05

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Carolyn Fuller

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Nathan Moore

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Zachary Berry; Levi Closure; Kenneth Cotton; Glenn Jones; Bobby Ray Marsh; Jerry Peacock; David Dean Porter; Brenda Walters; Ronnie Walters; Roy

Dale Warren; and Leslye Wayne Wiltcher.

DISTRICT 07

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Michael E. Broussard

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Charles A. Dansby

DISTRICT 08

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Jean Roger LaCaze

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Bruce Bean; John Brumfield Jr.; Shannon Byles; Mark Heard; Ernest Hilton; Timothy Hollins; James Manshack; Don Mitcham; Billy Robertson; Philip Shackelford; and Robert Waddle.

DISTRICT 58

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Levi Mercer

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Carey McCoy

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Fred Cruse; Marvin Cruse; Kevin Currington; Charles Dorsey; Johnny Duchesene; John Dupuy; Michael Henry; Charlie Lewis; Levi Mercer; Billy Overton; and Vincent Smith.

DISTRICT 61

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Richard Wood

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Gregory Alford; Wanda Birks; Calvin Carney Jr.; Mary Eidissen; Marvin Foster; Terrance Grant; Anthony Heggins Jr.; Tony Knighton; Travis Nicholas; Carl Owens; Carlos Patton; Ernest Ranges; and Dominic Stewart.

CCCD

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Julie Limoges

MANAGER OF THE QUARTER

Peter Maggiore

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE QUARTER

Timmy Charles; Steve Hart; and Joe Hoff.

Personnel Updates

(cont'd. from page 8)

RETIREMENTS (cont'd.)

DISTRICT 03 - LAFAYETTE

Learlin J. Bellard; Paul Benoit; Adley J. Douet; Paul Fontenot; Edward Garcia; Randy J. Hardy; Joseph K. Janise; Hilton Lecompte; and Bobby J. Robin.

DISTRICT 04 - SHREVEPORT

Terry Batchelor and James A. Pendleton.

DISTRICT 05 - MONROE

John J. Boyd; Jesse L. Ivory; and Clarence R. Ivy.

DISTRICT 07 - LAKE CHARLES

C. E. Courville.

DISTRICT 08 - ALEXANDRIA

Russell Augustine; Carl D. Beaudoin; Kurt P. Dalgo; Clifton W. Fletcher; Herman F. Gay; F. B. James; Richard J. Lemoine; Daniel W. Martin; and Daniel D. Mercer.

DISTRICT 58 - CHASE

Ebozy Anderson and Donald L. Griffin.

DISTRICT 61 - BATON ROUGE

Frankie J. Dunn Jr.

DISTRICT 62 - HAMMOND

Dennis Lee Ballard and Eddie E. McNeese.

CCCD

Raphael Parker.

HQ & OTHER

Thomas G. Christian; Peggy L. Durbin; Herman L. Etienne; Ruth M. Forrest; Barbara J. McLin; Robert Lee Taylor; E. F. Thibodeaux; Ila D. Vora; and Penny R. Watts.

2003 ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

HEADQUARTERS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Bradley Brandt

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Babak Naghavi

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Neil Hohmann, Jacqui Sanchez,
and Robert Lewis.

SECRETARY'S INNOVATION AWARD "THINKING OUT OF THE BOX"

William K. Fontenot, Jr.; Fred
Simon; and Teddy Babin.

DISTRICT 02

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Cheryl Barnes

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Linda Paternostro

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Wayne Monfrey and Diane Rome.

DISTRICT 03

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Duane Potier

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

William J. Oliver, Jr.

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Shane Boudreaux, Dell Hebert,
Carl LeBlanc, Joel Lormand, Duane
Potier, Valerie Rutherford, Brenda
Spriggs, and Patricia Stevens.

DISTRICT 04

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lamar Coldiron

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Rickey Fountain (posthumously)

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Tim White, Don Wiggins

District 04 (cont'd.)

Willie Richmond, John Millage,
Oscar White, James White, Judge
Whitaker, Mike Garvansites,
Chris Holmes, Kurt Hinkle, James
Sadler, and Vince Fields.

DISTRICT 05

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Georgia Richards

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Keith Crenshaw

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Albert Green; Robert Green;
Mike Johnson; Bobby Lazos;
Gerald Nichols; Jesse Reese;
Lonzo Thomas, Jr.; and Delores
Watts.

DISTRICT 07

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Brenda F. Barber

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Charles A. Dansby

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

John E. Faulk, Lori H. Leger, and
Michael Pilkerton.

DISTRICT 08

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Donald J. Harper

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Paula J. Monk

District 08 (cont'd.)

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

District 08 (District-wide)

DISTRICT 58

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Shannon Stephens

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Sandra Jackson

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Will Wiley, Earnest Thomas,
Mary Douglas, Clyde
McWilliams, Eddie Guice, Elijah
Washington, Michael Snowden,
Billy Jaubert, Timothy
Currington, and Nathan Lilly.

DISTRICT 61

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Linda Dunn

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Gilbert Tallion

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Ronnie Robinson, Hewitt
Beauvais, David Branch, Anna
Hanks, Roy Miller, Michael Ng,
and Tasha Russell.

CCCD

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Jerry Strong

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Ronald McNeil

BEST TEAM EFFORT OF THE YEAR

Stacie Blackmon, Tara Vincent,
Peggy Bourgeois, Tamicia
Lafrance, and Alisha McNeil.



Dear LA DOTD:

Mrs. Birkhead and I were more than just ordinarily impressed soon after the New Year when we found lanes on Interstate 10 were open - free of construction - as we enjoyed being tourists across the breadth of the state. Portable signs announced that all construction was shut down for the holidays until January 5.

I'm still irked with the state of Oklahoma, whose I-35 north of Fort Worth was repeatedly choked down for construction during the summer tourism peak.

Frank Birkhead
Laredo, Texas

Dear LA DOTD:

I usually dread the drive home from Austin, Texas, to Baton Rouge at Christmas because it seems inevitably there are huge delays on I-10 because of various road construction projects. But this past Christmas, I zipped along without a traffic pile-up in sight! I noticed some signs along the way saying that DOTD had delayed construction until after the holidays. I just wanted to thank whoever is responsible for having the foresight and consideration to make things easier for us holiday travelers. Nice job!

Kathleen Orillion
Austin, Texas

**Letters
We
Liked**

District 03

Dear Bill Fontenot, Tony Trammel and LADOTD:

You guys hit a homerun with the roundabout on Ridge Road. I drove it this week and went around three or four times to see if there was any confusion and there was none. There were several drivers who didn't even look up at me and ran the yield signs, but because there was enough width on the right side and I was on the inside of the roundabout, it was smooth sailing!

My compliments on a job well done and some progressive thinking!!

Mayor Charles Langlinais
Broussard, Louisiana

Dear Dr. Movassagh and LA DOTD:

Over the years, your folks in the Chase District Office have assisted me on several small projects for our system. There is no doubt in my mind they have done the very best that they can.

Thanks again, not only for your assistance, but the assistance of your entire department.

Thomas H. O'Neal
Concordia Parish School Board

HR HOT TOPICS

PHASE II OF WS (SKILLED TRADES) PAY SCHEDULE

Effective 11/25/03, the range minimums of all jobs in the WS pay schedule were raised by 2%. Employees who are below the new range minimums will receive pay adjustments up to the new rates.

LASERS SELF-DIRECTED PLAN

Effective 01/01/04, DROP/IBO participants are able to choose from a menu of investment options in allocating their DROP/IBO balances. Individuals who qualify will have the option to choose the LASERS DROP/IBO account, or the new Self-Directed Plan.

For more information, contact Great-West by calling (225) 926-8086 or (800) 937-7604, or visit the Web site at www.LouisianaDCP.com. You may also visit LASERS website at www.lasers.state.la.us for more information. DOTD's contact is Christy Smith at (225) 379-1229.

REVISED PPM's

The following DOTD policies were recently revised. Updated versions are available on HR's Web Page, www.dotd.louisiana.gov/hresources/. Any questions or comments may be directed to Susan Pellegrin, HR Assistant Director, at susanpellegrin@dotd.louisiana.gov or (225) 379-1292.

- PPM #12 - Compliance with Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
- PPM #33 - Promotions, Reallocations, Reassignments and Details
- PPM #46 - Establishment of DOTD Standing Committee on Human Resources (SCHR).

Got News? Send it to the DOTD Public Affairs Office at (225) 379-1202 or fax to (225) 379-1863. All stories will be considered!

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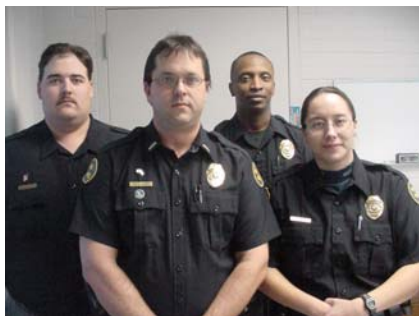
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Greenwood Employees Make Heroic Rescue Attempt



Pictured left to right are Officer Shawn Barnes, Lt. John C. Kay, Officer Brierre Thomas and Officer Rachal Brannon.

Four dedicated employees of the Greenwood weigh station recently went above and beyond the call of duty in an attempt to rescue a motorist who ran off the road. The employees are: John C. Kay-Police Lieutenant, Shawn Barnes-Police Officer 3, Rachal Brannon-Police Officer 3, and Brierre Thomas-Police Officer 3.

On December 16, the officers were notified that a car had run off the road into a creek at the entrance ramp to the weigh station. Officer Brannon and Lt. Kay went immediately to the scene while Officer Barnes called 911. Upon arriving at the scene of the accident, they saw the car upside down, submerged in the creek. With the help of Officer Brannon and another motorist, Lt. Kay tied two large straps around his waist and was able to go into the water to see if anyone was in the vehicle. He was able to open the door, but was unable to see anyone in the car. At that time, Officers Thomas and Barnes arrived and, along with Officer Brannon, helped pull Lt. Kay back onto the bank.

The Greenwood police arrived and Lt. Kay went in again with one of the police officers and observed a person in the vehicle. The rescuers were able to partially lift the vehicle and cut the seatbelt loose, but they were unable to free the occupant from the vehicle. The third rescue attempt, made by Caddo Fire District 3, was successful. Lt. Kay braved the water a final time to ensure that no one else was in the vehicle.

Although the occupant of the car later died, these Weights and Standards police officers displayed determination and courage in their efforts to save a life.

